

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
DISTRICT OF NEVADA

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Mark David Ahern,

Plaintiff,

v.

Kilolo Kijakazi, Acting Commissioner of
 Social Security,

Defendant.

Case No. 2:23-cv-02085-DJA

Order

Before the Court is Plaintiff Mark David Ahern's motion for leave to proceed *in forma pauperis*. (ECF No. 1). Because the Court finds that Plaintiff has demonstrated an inability to prepay fees and costs or give security for them, it grants the application. The Court also finds that Plaintiff's complaint has met the basic requirements to satisfy screening. The Court finds these matters properly resolved without a hearing. LR 78-1.

I. Discussion.

A. The Court grants Plaintiff's in forma pauperis application.

Plaintiff has submitted the affidavit required by 28 U.S.C. § 1915(a) showing an inability to prepay fees and costs or give security for them. Plaintiff explains that his only income is public assistance and that his parents are helping him. The Court thus finds that Plaintiff is unable to pay an initial partial filing fee and grants the application to proceed *in forma pauperis*.

B. Plaintiff's complaint passes the Court's screening.

Plaintiff's complaint meets the basic requirements to pass screening. When a plaintiff seeks leave to file a civil case *in forma pauperis*, the court will screen the complaint. See 28 U.S.C. § 1915(e). For social security appeals, judges in this district consider four requirements for complaints to satisfy screening. See, e.g., *Graves v. Colvin*, 2015 WL 357121, *2 (D. Nev. Jan. 26, 2015) (collecting cases). See *id.* First, the complaint must establish that administrative

1 remedies were exhausted under 42 U.S.C. § 405(g) and that the plaintiff filed the application
2 within 60 days after notice of the Social Security Commissioner's final decision. *See id.* Second,
3 the complaint must indicate the judicial district in which the plaintiff resides. *See id.* Third, the
4 complaint must state the nature of the plaintiff's disability and when the plaintiff claims to have
5 become disabled. *See id.* Fourth, the complaint must contain a plain, short, and concise
6 statement identifying the nature of the plaintiff's disagreement with the determination made by
7 the Social Security Administration and show that the plaintiff is entitled to relief. *See id.*

8 Here, Plaintiff's complaint satisfies all four requirements. First, the complaint asserts that
9 Plaintiff has properly sought review under 42 U.S.C. § 405(g) because he applied for Child's
10 Insurance Benefits and Supplemental Security Income which applications the Commissioner
11 denied initially and upon reconsideration. Plaintiff requested and participated in a hearing before
12 an administrative law judge (ALJ), who denied Plaintiff's claim on February 16, 2023. The
13 Appeals Council denied review on October 31, 2023, making the ALJ's decision the final
14 decision of the Commissioner. Plaintiff filed an *in forma pauperis* application less than 60 days
15 later. Second, Plaintiff claims to live in the jurisdictional boundaries of this Court. Third, the
16 complaint outlines the nature of Plaintiff's disabilities, and the date Plaintiff became disabled.
17 Fourth, the complaint concisely states Plaintiff's disagreement with the Social Security
18 Administration's determination. Because Plaintiff's complaint meets each of these requirements,
19 it satisfies screening.

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21 **IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED** that Plaintiff's application to proceed *in forma*
22 *pauperis* (ECF No. 1) is **granted** with the caveat that the fees shall be paid if recovery is made.
23 At this time, Plaintiff shall not be required to pay the filing fee.

24 **IT IS FURTHER ORDERED** that Plaintiff is permitted to maintain this action to
25 conclusion without the necessity of prepayment of any additional fees or costs or the giving of
26 security therefor. The Order granting leave to proceed *in forma pauperis* shall not extend to the
27 issuance of subpoenas at government expense.
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1 **IT IS FURTHER ORDERED** that the Clerk of Court is kindly directed to file the
2 complaint (ECF No. 1-1).

3 **IT IS FURTHER ORDERED** that the Clerk of Court is kindly directed to provide notice
4 of this action to the Commissioner pursuant to Rule 3 of the Supplemental Rules for Social
5 Security.

6 **IT IS FURTHER ORDERED** that from this point forward, Plaintiff shall serve upon
7 Defendant or, if appearance has been entered by counsel, upon the attorney, a copy of every
8 pleading, motion, or other document submitted for consideration by the Court. Plaintiff shall
9 include with the original paper submitted for filing a certificate stating the date that a true and
10 correct copy of the document was personally served or sent by mail to the Defendant or counsel
11 for the Defendant. The Court may disregard any paper received by a judge which has not been
12 filed with the clerk, and any paper received by a judge or the clerk which fails to include a
13 certificate of service.

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15 DATED: December 21, 2023

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18 DANIEL J. ALBREGTS
19 UNITED STATES MAGISTRATE JUDGE
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